[redacted]

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(Revised)
17 November 1958
CIA 488906

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES FOR [redacted] ELECTRONICS 25X1X7
CONFERENCE ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SESSION

First Day:* Session Devoted to Telecommunications Facilities.

Theme and Objectives

The indicated overall postwar progress of the electronics industry of the USSR, as reflected in scientific and technological developments and in scale and ranges of product output, does not appear to be reflected by the quality and quantity of electronics products employed in existing basic telecommunications operating resources. If this observation is valid, then it appears that the USSR continues to suffer from priorities insofar as basic telecommunications operating facilities are concerned. In terms of estimated plant in being and of present and future need, these facilities lag from five to ten years behind other priority electronics achievements. The reasons for this situation are not clear. In fact, Soviet realism normally would suggest that the situation would not be permitted to exist.

The papers and discussion with respect to telecommunications facilities and services address themselves to the general question of the status of USSR facilities and services. Although the papers treat specific aspects of the general problem, it is hoped that discussion of the individual papers will contribute to a better judgment on the general question. For this purpose the last paper in this series can be used as a base for bringing together the judgments of the conferees and, to the extent of disagreement, for assembling suggestions on a plan for attacking residual problems.

* The first day of the Economic Session will follow immediately the last day of the Scientific Session. As presently scheduled, the first day will fall on 20 January 1959.

[redacted]

	Conference Paper	Contributor
1.	Soviet Arctic Telecommunications	[redacted] will prepare the basic paper, subject to conformation. 25X1X7
2.	Soviet Arctic Telecommunications	Communications Branch, CIA/ORR, will also present a short paper on this subject.
3.	USSR Communications Facilities for Guided Missile Activity	25X1X7 [redacted] will prepare this paper, subject to conformation.
4.	The Impact of the 1957 Industrial Reorganization on Telecommunications in the USSR	Communications Branch, CIA/ORR
5.	Trends in Soviet Choice of High Capacity Telecommunications Facilities to Overcome Mainline Weaknesses	Communications Branch, CIA/ORR
25X1D0a 6.	[redacted]	NSA
7.	USSR Acts to Integrate Communications of the Communist Countries	Communications Branch, CIA/ORR
25X1D0a 8.	[redacted]	NSA
9.	Validity of Intelligence Estimates on USSR Telecommunications	Communications Branch, CIA/ORR

Second Day: Session Devoted to the Electronics Equipment Industry

Theme and Objectives

The electronics industry of the USSR has achieved remarkable postwar growth in scientific and technical capabilities and in the scale and range of product output. As a consequence, the stature of the industry has risen from its position as a major limiting factor in military weapons systems programs to a level at which its potential to achieve major technological breakthroughs is estimated to be approximately on a par with the West.

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During this same time period the USSR has developed an electronics production base which in absolute size and in production technology is capable of carrying major scientific and technical achievements into production. It has, however, remained difficult to determine the extent to which conflicting demands for specialized materials and components may exercise quantitative restrictions on specific weapons systems programs and more narrowly circumscribe the range of choices available in Soviet production planning.

It is suggested, therefore, that whereas the absolute size of the electronics industry will remain an important intelligence target, such highly aggregative measures are of limited value in the context of this conference, and in terms of quantitative estimates of specific weapons systems production. The Economic Intelligence Committee of the United States has selected this weakness as one requiring increased analytical emphasis. Despite the extreme importance attached to the problem the nature of currently available source material severely restricts any hope that the required answers will be forthcoming quickly or easily.

The subject is therefore considered to be appropriate for presentation to the conference as a matter of joint concern to the three intelligence communities. It is hoped that as a result of joint consideration new analytical approaches may be brought to light and additional collection efforts can be examined.

The papers and discussion will focus on the range of priority intelligence questions relating to Bloc capabilities to translate available science and technology into specific weapons systems, the conflicting demands for material and components which may be expected to pose serious problems to the Bloc, and on possible methods for quantifying the most relevant limiting factors. Examples will be provided from United States intelligence analysis.

Conference Paper	Contributor
1. Rate of Growth in Production of Electronic Components as a Measure of the Growth in Equipment Production	[redacted] 25X1X7

2.	Production and Utilization of Semi-conductor Elements in the USSR	Electronic Equipment Branch, CIA/ORR
3.	Evidences of Bloc Vulnerabilities in the Production of Critical Electronic Components and Materials	Electronic Equipment Branch, CIA/ORR
4.	Recent Changes in the Allocation of Production Facilities in the Electronics Industry	[redacted] 25X1X7
5.	Production Trends in the Electronics Industries of the European Satellites	25X1X7 [redacted]
6.	Production Trends in the Electronics Industry of Communist China	Electronic Equipment Branch, CIA/ORR
7.	Improvements in Methods for Obtaining Quantitative Estimates of Production of Electronics for Specific Weapons Systems	Electronics Equipment Branch, CIA/ORR